

# UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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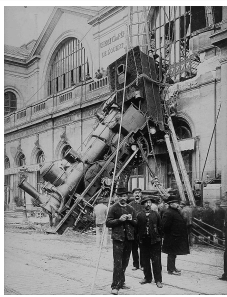
Thursday, July 18, 2024






## What could possibly go wrong?

From [SEGate](#): A gentle LA breeze floats through a wall of green plants as you watch a butterfly flap its wings in the air. A friendly person hands you an ecstasy pill over the sound of gently gurgling water. It seems like a dreamy, psychedelic party at a hippie's house in Venice, but this is actually part of UCLA's vision for a new plan to build a "living laboratory." The university is hoping to build a plant-filled rooftop garden designed specifically for psychedelic-assisted therapy sessions.

Psychedelic-assisted therapy, in which people take drugs like MDMA (the active compound in ecstasy) under the supervision of a psychiatric professional, has generated intense interest at universities across the country. The therapy has shown promise in treating a wide range of mental health disorders, including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. UCLA is a leader in this research, with nearly a dozen different ongoing clinical trials studying psychedelics, including work with MDMA and psilocybin, the active compound found in magic mushrooms, according to [UCLA Health](#)...

Full story at <https://www.sfgate.com/cannabis/article/ucla-psychedelic-rooftop-garden-plans-19578137.php>.



Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:     

Labels: [health care](#), [UCLA](#)

## Berkeley Rent/Parking Strike?



From [KQED](#): Hundreds of residents of a UC Berkeley family housing complex in Albany are refusing to pay new rent hikes and parking fees, saying the added expenses are putting new strain on already-tight family budgets.

At a press conference Thursday, the residents expressed their discontent after the university imposed a \$64 monthly parking fee on July 1 at University Village, a nearly 974-unit residential community for graduate students, post-doc researchers and others. Residents also received a 4%

rent increase on July 1 — the third year in a row of consecutive 4% increases. According to the university's website, residents at the Village pay between \$2,090 for one-bedroom units and \$3,455 for three-bedroom apartments.

"The households are refusing to pay the fee ... to show the university that this is in fact a serious issue, and they can't simply change the terms of their tenancy and start charging these new fees without coming to a fair agreement first," said Brad Hirn, unit chair for UC Berkeley Academic Researchers at UAW Local 4811, a union representing graduate students.

More than 450 households at the Village are members of the UAW 4811, according to Hirn. Hirn, who is not a resident of the Village, said that UAW 4811 is "overall concerned about reducing rent burden for students and workers due to these new fees," and that he is "supporting the residents in their efforts" with his background in tenant and labor union organizing.

On Monday, residents of the Village delivered a poster signed by over 270 residents to the offices of Associate Vice Chancellor Jo Mackness, who oversees Residential & Student Service Programs, communicating their decision to not pay the fees.

The residents are demanding the university to drop the fees, waive monetary citations over the past several months from increasing monthly rents and to reach a fair agreement on parking fees, rent increases and housing services.

"We would also like to see better transparency on how money is spent. Our primary playground is in complete disarray and dangerous for kids to play on," Robin López, a Village resident,

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### Topics







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wrote in an email to KQED. "Part of [a] memorial for a past resident who was killed due to domestic violence has been removed and not yet replaced. There should be funds to take care of the bare minimum for a community full of children. We would also like to have reclaimed access to our community spaces."

In a statement, UC Berkeley spokesperson Adam Ratliff wrote that the planned increases in parking fees had been communicated to residents in February 2023. Mackness had announced in April 2021 the university's plan to increase rents by 4% each year for three years.

"We wanted to give our residents plenty of time to plan accordingly, which is why we first offered virtual parking permits at no cost for the 2023–24 academic year with the notice that we would need to charge for the permits on July 1, 2024, for the 2024–25 academic year," Ratliff wrote...

Full story at <https://www.kqed.org/news/11993792/uc-berkeley-students-families-refuse-to-pay-new-fees-at-university-owned-housing>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:00 AM](#) No comments:      

Labels: [parking](#), [strikes](#), [UC-Berkeley](#)

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Cash Rich in a Budget Crisis



The final state controller's report for fiscal year 2023-24 that ended June 30th shows the state is sitting on \$103.3 billion in unused borrowable resources, up from \$97.6 billion at the same time last year. That seems like a lot of cash.\*

It also shows that actual revenues fell almost \$39 billion below what had been anticipated when 2023-24 began.







How is this possible? And, if we have all that cash, why are we in a state budget crisis?

The first thing to understand is that not all state cash is in reserves associated with the General Fund. There are lots of funds outside the General Fund earmarked for various purposes. The state is not allowed to borrow money without a vote of the people, but courts have interpreted that restriction to apply to long term debt (more than one year). Within the fiscal year, the state can borrow so long as the money is repaid before June 30. When it has lots of cash, the state can borrow internally within the year and doesn't need to go to external financial markets for its short-term needs.

Essentially what happened when it was clear that revenues were falling short of expectations was that the legislature took various actions. Some were real and others were cosmetic, i.e., moving expenses so that they would fall after June 30th. Those steps allowed the internal short-term borrowing to be paid back before June 30th. Borrowing internally can begin again now that we are in July. The gamble is that given actual reserves for the General Fund and internal borrowing from other funds, the state will make it through the current year and perhaps some combination of economic growth and tax money from capital gains will take care of things thereafter.

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\*<https://sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/June2024StatementofGeneralFundCashReceiptsandDisbursements.pdf> [p. B-1]

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments:      

Labels: [controller](#), [legislature](#), [politics](#), [State Budget](#)

Interpretation



A few days ago, the [Daily Bruin](#) ran an article about UCLA's recent real estate purchases. Excerpt:

...In September 2022, UCLA purchased the former Marymount University Campus in Rancho Palos Verdes with plans to use the land as UCLA's South Bay campus to increase enrollment and for research purposes, according to the university. In an emailed statement, Andrea Kasko and Christina Christie, co-chairs of the Joint Task

Force on the Academic Mission of UCLA Campus Expansion, said the Palos Verdes purchase presented multiple research opportunities. For example, its location near the port of LA, an ecosystem with unique flora and fauna, makes it suitable for urban ocean-focused research, Kasko and Christie said in the statement.

"Its proximity to the port of Los Angeles connects the campus to the global economy, and labor practices and movements in related economies and could present research opportunities to UCLA faculty, staff and students studying global economies, labor studies, the blue and green economies and related areas," Kasko and Christie said in the statement.

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[EVC Darnell] Hunt added the process of purchasing the South Bay property also included negotiations with the former Marymount California University and presenting a layout of what UCLA's plan would look like for the now-shut-down university campus. The process also involved consideration of how to finance the purchase, given the high cost of buying land in California.

The former college campus cost UCLA \$80 million, according to the LA Times. The purchase was financed with general revenue bonds, a type of loan issued by the government. These loans are commonly used by institutions to finance large public projects and are paid back over time through income generated by the project...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2024/07/09/uclas-expansions-across-los-angeles-present-opportunities-for-research-community>.

An unkind interpretation of the above is that it's been almost two years since the Marymount purchase, and yet nobody has the foggiest idea of what to do with this inaccessible expensive property.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:      

Labels: UCLA

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

Two Too Many









A news report in the [Daily Bruin](#) indicates that the perpetrator of a sexual assault in a UCLA dorm has pled guilty. The perpetrator was a 41-year old man unaffiliated with UCLA. The report suggests gaps in security that need to be investigated:

...Brewer allegedly loitered outside of Saxon Suites around 1:30 a.m. on Friday. He then knocked on one of the suite doors and was let in by a student, but he exited the building when a student resident asked him to leave, according to the press release. Around 2:40 a.m., Brewer allegedly broke into another unit in Saxon Suites, where he allegedly sexually assaulted a student, according to the press release.

UCPD Lieutenant James Echols said in an emailed statement that there are campus security officers, private security and housing security patrolling the Hill, and UCPD has increased routine police officer patrols in the area since the incident...

Full story at <https://dailybruin.com/2024/07/11/la-county-district-attorney-charges-detainee-in-alleged-on-campus-sexual-assault>.

Two unauthorized entries are two too many.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:      

Labels: UCLA

With Dignity



When we first took note of the Regents' preliminary agenda for this week, we noted that there was an action item involving the incorporation of Dignity hospital employees into UCRP and wondered what the implication of that incorporation would be for the unfunded pension liability.\*

Now we have a more detailed agenda. It is estimated that the added liability - estimated at this time to be about \$30 million - will be paid for by the acquired facilities.







Since the acquisition is by UC-San Francisco, that essentially means that UC-SF will make the pension plan whole for the added liability.

The full agenda item with the estimate and the proposed action is at:

<https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/july24/f7.pdf>.

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\*<https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2024/07/upcoming-regents-meetings-july-16-18.html>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:00 AM No comments:      

Labels: health care, UC Regents, UC-San Francisco, ucrp

Monday, July 15, 2024

UCLA can be as neutral as the rest of them

Shifting Into Neutral: It's a Thing! - Part 2

Yale's Committee

Didn't want to let this issue slide

Numbers & Ratios - We Report; You Decide

9-11-01 at UCLA

Shifting Into Neutral: It's a Thing!

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Take Us Out of the Ball Game

Water with the Guv

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Well, I'm sure I could write something...

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The Great Santa Cruz Panic of '24

The Senate Wants to Be In (or maybe near) the Room...

Regents Special Retreat: Wednesday-Thursday

TMT in Hawaii in the Past Tense?

Some UC-Retirement Programs for September

Bus Stop

Burnout

Artwork for Westwood/VA Subway Station

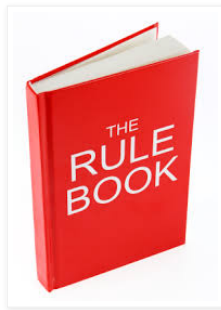
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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

## New rules coming



From today's [LA Times](#): *Many University of California regents and campus leaders are signaling they will no longer tolerate encampments and intend to consistently enforce rules pertaining to protests as they brace for the possible escalation of campus turmoil over the Israel-Hamas war when students return to class in the fall. "I am confident that encampments won't be tolerated," Regent Rich Leib said in a recent interview before stepping down as board chair. "I'm confident the regents feel we need to enforce the rules." ...*

**The UC's actions will be under a microscope by state legislators. Lawmakers have directed Drake to develop a "systemwide framework" to provide consistent enforcement of rules — and are withholding \$25 million in state funding until he delivers a report on his efforts by**

Oct. 1.

*The UC must notify all students by the beginning of fall term about rules around free speech activities, student codes of conduct, nondiscrimination policies, campus processes to resolve alleged violations and potential consequences, among other requirements. The state report must also include UC efforts to consistently enforce policies and laws "that protect safety and access to educational opportunities and campus spaces and buildings."*

*Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino), chair of the Assembly Budget Committee and co-chair of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, pushed for the condition and said "it underscores how seriously we take these issues." Lawmakers expect the framework to show how UC will "prevent a repeat of last year's violence and chaos," he said. Drake's office plans to consult with chancellors, regents, state and federal lawmakers, students, faculty, staff and others on "how UC campuses can carry out core operations while ensuring that free expression flourishes and everyone feels respected, valued, and safe." ...*

Full story at <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-07-15/uc-regents-say-no-to-encampments-and-codes-must-be-enforced>.

It might be noted that UCLA seems already to have adopted an interim plan. In a brief filed arguing that a lawsuit against UCLA should be dismissed, the university argued:

*"UCLA has applied the lessons learned from the spring's protests to its ongoing preparations for students' return to campus this fall. It has created a new Office of Campus Safety, which maintains an Emergency Operations Center that is empowered to take decisive action in response to protests. Since May, UCLA has already successfully prevented three efforts to occupy parts of campus." ...*

*"UCLA's day-to-day responsibility for campus safety incident response has shifted to an Emergency Operations Center that is empowered to make critical decisions about responding to protests on campus, including those that violate UCLA policy (i.e., by engaging in violence or obstructing access to campus resources). ...Consistent with University of California ("UC") guidance reflected in what is known as the Robinson-Edley Report, UCLA does not tolerate non-peaceful protest activity and encampments... **UCLA has since called law enforcement immediately to respond to protest activity on at least three occasions when UCLA determined that protestors were willfully disrupting campus operations...**"*

Full brief at <https://ia800402.us.archive.org/9/items/2-final-hjaa-report.-the-soil-beneath-the-encampments/UCLA-response%20to%20antisemitism%20suit%207-8-2024.pdf>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 1:48 PM No comments:      

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